

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of operating an application program having a graphical user interface (GUI), the method including the steps of:

predicting a next user input to the GUI;

pending receipt of the next user input, executing a preparation portion of GUI code that provides the GUI function required by the predicted user input; and

determining whether the predicted user input corresponds to the actual next user input and, on a positive determination, processing an activation portion of said GUI code to complete the required GUI function.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, including the further step of:

maintaining a history of user inputs to the GUI; wherein the step of predicting the next user input at a particular GUI state is based on an analysis of the history of previous user inputs at the particular GUI state.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, including the further step of maintaining a history of user inputs to the GUI at each GUI state, the step of predicting the next user input at a particular GUI state comprising the step of determining whether to base the prediction on the maintained history or on a record of recent user inputs to the GUI.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the prediction step comprises predicting a potential sequence of user inputs and the execution step comprises executing a preparation portion of GUI code for each of the user inputs of the predicted sequence.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the prediction step comprises predicting a plurality of alternative potential user inputs and the execution step comprises executing a preparation portion of GUI code for each of the alternative user inputs.

6. Data processing apparatus comprising:

means for predicting a next user input to a graphical user interface (GUI) provided by the apparatus;

pending receipt of the next user input, means for executing a preparation portion of GUI code that provides the GUI function required by the predicted user input; and

means for determining whether the next received user input corresponds with the predicted next user input and, on a positive determination, for processing an activation portion of said GUI code to complete the required GUI function.

7. A computer program comprising program code means adapted to perform all the steps of any of claims 1 to 5 when run on a computer.